

EXHIBIT NO. 6  
DATE: 3-22-2011  
BILL NO. SJ 16

The Honorable Senator Max Baucus  
511 Hart Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
(202) 224-2651 (Office)  
(202) 224-9412 (Fax)

The Honorable Senator Jon Tester  
724 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-2604  
Phone: (202) 224-2644  
Fax: (202) 224-8594

The Honorable Congressman Denny Rehberg  
2448 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC, 20515  
phone: (202) 225-3211  
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March 22, 2011

Dear Senator Baucus, Senator Tester and Congressman Rehberg,

Amtrak currently provides an important service to Montana through its Empire Builder line. We thank you for your long-standing support of Amtrak service in the state and we wish to request your help in supporting federal legislation that would provide the flexibility for future expansion of the Amtrak line in Montana. We, the undersigned mayors, represent cities and towns that would benefit from continued funding for the Empire Builder and restoration of the the North Coast Hiawatha Amtrak line.

President Obama's budget calls for \$8.3 billion to be invested in inter-city passenger rail. We want to ask for your support of this funding for inter-city passenger rail, but also your help to ensure that Montana's passenger rail projects are included in this funding. A portion of the \$4 billion allotted to network expansion could theoretically be used to expand Amtrak's former North Coast Hiawatha line along the existing freight rail lines. Similarly, a portion of the \$4 billion allotted to system preservation should be used in maintenance of the Empire Builder line in northern Montana. We request your help in ensuring that these important Montana projects are eligible for those funds.

The existing Amtrak service in northern Montana supports the tourist infrastructure of the state and also provides increased mobility for Montanans. Restoring the North Coast Hiawatha line would bring economic opportunity in southern Montana through increased tourism spending, better connectedness of our cities, and jobs in the railroad industry. As one of the safest modes of travel, expanded passenger rail service would offer another option for folks wishing to avoid the dangers of highway travel in Montana.

Please continue your support of funding for inter-city passenger rail while also working

to ensure that Montana's rail projects are eligible to receive a fair portion of that funding.

Sincerely,

Susan Fleshman, Mayor  
Dutton, MT

Larry J. Bonderud, Mayor  
Shelby, MT

Joseph R. Whalen, Mayor  
Miles City, MT

Wayne Wardell, Mayor  
Chester, MT

Randall Woods, Mayor  
Hot Springs, MT

Ray Lipp, Mayor  
Hingham, MT

Carla M. Parks, Mayor  
Thompson Falls, MT

Lillian I Alfson, Mayor  
Fairfield, MT

Ken Olson, Mayor  
Laurel, MT

Pat DeVries, Mayor  
Polson, MT

Bret Smelser, Mayor  
Sidney, MT

John Engen, Mayor  
Missoula, MT

Jim Smith, Mayor  
Helena, MT

Gene Townsend, Mayor  
Three Forks, MT

Doug Roll, Mayor  
Libby, MT

Mary Hensleigh, Mayor  
Whitehall, MT

Mike Brinson, Mayor  
Plains, MT

Bill Kroll, Mayor  
Bridger, MT